



# ARRL September VHF Contest 2018 Preliminary Results

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Even with rather poor conditions, 569 logs were received for the 2018 running, the most since 2009. There were 82 rover entries and that seemed to significantly contribute to activity in local areas since there was a lack of enhanced conditions.

## Category Winners

<i>Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP)</i>		
AF1T		72,390
<i>Single Operator, High Power (SOHP)</i>		
K1RZ		157,435
<i>Single Operator Portable (SOP)</i>		
W4DVE		8,525
<i>Single Operator, 3-Band (SO3B)</i>		
KO9A		14,773
<i>Single Operator, FM Only (SOFM)</i>		
KM4KMU		14,154
<i>Limited Multioperator (LM)</i>		
N2NT		93,900
<i>Unlimited Multioperator (UM)</i>		
W2SZ		275,315
<i>Classic Rover (R)</i>		
KF2MR/R		63,602
<i>Limited Rover (RL)</i>		
ACØRA/R		121,264
<i>Unlimited Rover (RU)</i>		
NØLD/R		117,824

## Notes and Observations

FT8 usage continues to surge, as was most apparent this September during an event with limited propagation enhancement. While 6-meter FT8 is expanding and well established, in some areas 2-meter FT8 activity is just taking root. Even though it is not required to specify FT8 (or other digital modes) in Cabrillo-formatted logs, it would be great to get a handle on how many QSOs are made via the various digital modes. To that end, for future contests, the Cabrillo specifications have recently been updated to designate "DG" as a mode representing non-RTTY digital modes. Things are also apparently changing in the way VHF QSOs are being conducted, and it would be great to somehow track the recent technology changes. The contest community is actively discussing ways to obtain that information.

Overall, rovers really stimulate activity, especially when there is little to no enhancement. Some rovers are activating 10+ grids on many bands, and chasing rovers seems to give local club members a reason for staying on the air when conditions are less than optimal.

## Affiliated Club Competition

As has been the case in recent years, there was no club entry for the Unlimited Category. It is good to see a large turnout (49 entries) from the PNWVHFS (Pacific Northwest VHF Society), indicating growing VHF participation in that area (more detail to follow in the Full Results). From preliminary data, the number one clubs by category are:

<b>Medium</b>	
Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club	20 entries
<b>Local</b>	
Niagara Frontier Radiosport	6 entries



**KG5UCA/R and K5TR took to Central Texas in this multi-band machine to activate 12 grids for everyone to work. (Photo courtesy KG5UCA)**

All scores presented in this preliminary report are provisional, pending final review. Watch for the Full Results coming soon to this website. Top scores will be printed online and in the April 2019 issue of QST.